

cultural importance, which are of great significance, from the point of view of tourism and from the point of view of general good governance also.

So, we are trying to synthesise three elements-the cultural element, the tourism element and good State governance. Unless those places are clean, it is of no use. I had been to these places, which you mentioned. I visited all the temples. I had been to Lalitgiri. There are encroachments inside the temple, outside the temple and all around the temple. We have spent money on it. There is a great pond around it. But all waste is being dumped in it. Therefore, spending money on the one side, and not maintaining them properly, on the other, is counter-productive. I have written to all the Chief Ministers requesting them to ensure that the new initiatives that we have taken brings out good results for the nation, as a whole. This will happen only if they cooperate in curbing this type of illegal and unhealthy activity.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY (Karnataka): Madam, we must appreciate the approach of the Minister. If hon. Ministers come forward with answers, whenever Special Mentions are there, it would be wonderful. I am grateful to him. I think, the House should also be grateful to him. The Minister is armed with the facts. His knowledge is really appreciated. Whenever Members raise Special Mentions, like him, if all the Ministers respond to it, it would be good for the nation.

Harnessing of water resources in Orissa

SHRIMATI SUSHREE DEVI (Orissa): Madam, Orissa has been afflicted with severe calamities one after the other in the recent past. The super cyclone of 1999 had taken 1,00,000 human lives, left 4 lakh cattle dead, affected 12 million population, 400 villages and 1.67 million hectares of land. The devastation and havoc caused by the cyclone and floods of last year are still fresh in the minds of the people that continue to haunt them. The last year's floods and super cyclone had washed away river and saline embankments and caused breaches in almost all rivers and canals in the State, which once flooded can cause immense damage and destruction. While there is a scarcity of water in one part of the State, other areas very often get flooded. There is, therefore, an immediate necessity to harness the water of floods and use it in the drought hit area. For this I would request the Central Government that they should draw short and long-term plans in consultation with the State authorities, to harness the rain water

and its diversion through canals and other modes to the areas which are periodically hit by drought and hunger deaths. This should be done on top priority basis under the Centrally-sponsored schemes or projects, as the State has no resources of its own for this gigantic task. I would like to make an earnest appeal to the Centre that they should lend their ears to this human task to ameliorate and mitigate the miseries and sufferings of my State Orissa.

SHRI B.J. PANDA (Orissa): Sir, I associate myself with the sentiments expressed by the hon. Member.

MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR (Orissa): Sir, I also associate myself with the Special Mention of the hon. Member.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shri Satish Pradhan wants to say something good. Though the House is not so full but he wants to mention something nice. Something nice should also be mentioned in the House, and not all the time complaints.

FELICITATIONS TO MEDAL WINNERS AT COMMONWEALTH GAMES

श्री सतीश प्रधान (महाराष्ट्र) : मैडम, बहुत ही संक्षेप में बता रहा हूं। भारत की ओलम्पिक में बहुत बुरी स्थिति रहती है, सूखे जैसी स्थिति रहती है पदक के बारे में। लेकिन मेनचेस्टर में जो कॉमनवेल्थ गेम चल रहे हैं वहां भारतीय खिलाड़ियों ने बहुत अच्छा प्रदर्शन किया है। यह भारत के लिए बड़ी खुशी की बात है। इसके लिए सभी खिलाड़ियों का अभिनन्दन करना चाहिए। भारत के ओलम्पिक एसोसिएशन के अध्यक्ष और राज्य सभा के सांसद श्री सुरेश कलमाडी का भी अभिनन्दन करना चाहिए जो अभी यहां नहीं है। उनको आगे के लिए मैं शुभकामना देता हूं।

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We all share your sentiments and send our compliments and good wishes to those who have won and those who have tried. We hope next time they would do it.

GOVERNMENT BILLS

The Merchant Shipping (Amendment) Bill 2002

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): Madam, on behalf of Shri Vedprakash P. Goyal, I move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958 and the Major Port Trust Act, 1963.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.